

THE WORLD AWAKES

DAME NATURE IS GLORIOUS IN VIR-GINIA'S WONDROES WOODLANDS.

THE AFTON LADY'S PRETTY THOUGHTS

Her Pen Sketches the Beauties of our Forest and Breathes Out a Silvan Fragrance-Echoes from the Nelson Hills.

AFTON, VA., Antil 2,-(Special.)-It has come again-the leafy month-the onth of April; April with her cheery smiles, her sudden tears, her peeps of green everywhere, her signs of growth in bush and bank and tree.

Suddenly, without warning, there is in the air, in the earth, and in the feeling men, an indescribable quickening. The mises of nature begin to move. In the id way, made new, the patience at the heart of things is working out once more the old miracle of the awakening world. Nothing as ever forgotten; no atom of matter lost; no death-in an indefinable way there is only a passing on to meet nother stage of development, Only those who live in the country can really know what this month of April means that it is to watch for the early wild lowers; to catch the first shy notes of a venturous bird; to hear the trickling of water broken from its icy bounds back in the hills, and coming down now with a laugh and a song; beyond and above all, to wander forth among the thousand sounds of the universe of the woods and forget for the time that conventionall tles ever hedged us about. Just one hour where the very trees seem to have a dis-tinct vitality as they throw off their hibernation and burst to bud and tender oliage here and there, brings a sense o life and warmth, a glow of renewal and happiness that make it enough to live. THESE WONDERFUL WOODS.

These wonderful woods of oak and each and crimson, budding maple, with he yellow light coming down in sunny spots, are like the forests one reads of in childish fairy tales. Through such woods Red Ridinghood had gone unconscious to her doom. Through such a forest Fatima's brothers had ridden to the rescue of Bluebeard's last victim in just such woods Beauty had dwell meekly in the palace of the enchant ed Benst; under such spreading trees she bent over the dying monster breathing soft words of pity into his ear, and had seen him restored to the

grace and glory of manhood—the perfect prince of Fairyland! Ah, well, the thrill of a spring day be neath the opening leaves brings strang-day dreams, and not more marveilous

were our fairy tales than this swift trans from sere browness to all the variegate greens that range between a tender letuce lenf and the sombre tint of the ivy "PLANT A TREE."

I saw, not long since, a newspaper con-tention as to the authorship of a poem entitled, "Plant a Tree," which was at-tributed to ex-Secretary Morton. It was cally written by Lucy Larcom, and is ne of the few poems-leaving plaglarish do-which is quite worthy of imita-

"He who plants a tree, He plants youth: Vigor wen for centuries, in sooth; Lafe of time, that hints eternity! Boughs their strength uprear,

On old growths appear. ou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree south of soul is immortality!"

For in all the vegetable kingdom ther nothing of such wondrous beauty as a c, nor of such absorbing interest, from first great pines and tree-ferns of fossil age, which Nature's change forces have since made into coaus, to the giant oaks of the Blue lidge forests. In Saxon mythology the ames of mystle trees are legion, and the tallsmanic properties just as numein. First among these is the oak You should never mutilate an oak the slightest degree if you wish the inderer to remain your friend. The regoths prohibited by law the cutdown of any trees of cak or hazel latter being also a lightning, or fire ce, and dear to Thor. There is still a by the worshippers of the thunder-of planting oaks on the boundaries ands, this act being sure to gain his

By whatever name they make invoke red is a color sacred to the fire-For this reason the mountain ash, the wood-fore of the forests. In Gernorres tails-a superstition which was

and may have been of this origin. devils, and the canny Scot, who, like his famous Tam, "kens what's what fu' brawly," uses deli sap for their bites.

MYSTIC VIRTUE OF THE ELDER. The elder tree is also of mystic virtue, and is macred to the fairies. The elder-berries, gathered at intdnight of midnumber eve and worn over the heart, will draw to you only good fairles in uck and love, and certainly at one half

inconvenience of doubling on a rab-a foot across a lonely graveyard. Perhaps of all trees the hazel enjoys

indicate where springs of water or pre-cious metals are concealed must be of hazel; to be efficacious, it is best cut upon Good Friday. The hazel is conducive to faithfulness. In some counties the leader of a marriage procession waves a hazel red as he walks along. He must not, however, touch it to his lips, as he will become invisible, and the bride and groom would have their first dispute as to who would have their first dispute as to who should take his place.

Probably from some of these ancient oracles comes the old-time negro belief that to insure a good corn crop one should plant a hazel-nut in the first and last

CURIOUS THINGS IN FORESTS.

Many curious things may be seen in the forests by any one who will keep his eyes wide open. Some seasons ago a party of us were having a picnic in the woods, when a young man, who was stretched lazily by a fallen log, chanced to pull out from under it a piece of a dead branch of a pine tree. It was a stick about five feet long, from which some began to tear away the half-decayed bark, and we made a singular discovery n wood-lore. Our find was a piece of satural carved wood, most curiously in-aid with delicate tracings-carved as if by hand, and looking as if it had been di-rectly imported from the workshop of some South Sea Islander. The carving was the work of a strange little insect, who, for aught, I know, may have som high sounding name in entomology. What puzzled me was the intricate regularity of the carved design. He evidently did not work according to any set design or pattern, because he made it as he went ut the waves and scrolls of this un skilled workman were exquisitely he finer lines kept closely and evenly to gether with mathematical precision though no two parts of the stick wer We divided our treasure and ha our carved pieces made into lovely paper knives, match-boxes, and bric-a-brac. For a long time I thought our natural carved a great ravity, but specimens may be gathered almost anywhere in the pin forests if one is fond of tramping and keen of observation. All the various kinds of pine trees, spruce, hemlock, tamarack, fir, yellow pine, white pine, and all other kinds of pine afford varying degrees of attraction to this curious little insect with many legs and sharp jaws-a natural scroll saw. It was a long time before we found our tiny carver at home, but one day, on a piece of fallen white pine, we caught him workav underneath the bark. And then I discovered that no sooner is a pine r hemlock tree blown down by a storm or felled by the woodman's axe, than multitudes of these little creatures take up their abode. What they were after I did not know; probably they live on the gum resins of the wood. I gathered up

the big bugs of science, you know-and they there await classification in the new book on wood-carving.

Department of Insects in Washington-

OTHER SYLVAN WONDERS, There are other bits of natural wood of our friend in the pine trees. A sen sational chapter is going the rounds that Mother Nature is taking portraits of noted foreign celebrities in the heart of a maple tree away up in the wilds Minnesota. This block of wood, if really exists, is the greatest marvel o nature. These portraits of Queen Eliza-beth, and Raleigh and Shakespeare, stamped like a revenue tax upon native American wood, is so "English, don't cher know," that it should be placedthe heart of maple, I mean-at once be fore the English people. It may be the one talisman needed in the event of a

All-Fools'-Day is here, and so are its

patron saints. A rumor went down the valley this morning that a Spanish war vessel had knocked Fort Monroe out of base and was coming up the James river to Rockfish creek. And that recalls our worthy brother of the backwoods who went down to the launching of the Kentucky. "I was powerful pleased," he said or his return. "I tell you, sir, she's fine boat. Be swa'n' ef I ever see sich a thing; only them holes in her side, sir, il let in the water of she tilts over!"
"Oh! the holes," said the funny man or the shoe box; "why, they are for the men to crawl in if they fall in the water." "An' then ---?" asks the other.
"They pull the holes in after them!"

So the fools are not all deal by a cou-

HOMO, FELIS ET CANIS.

A dog, thought to be rabid, bit a cat the other day, and the cat behaving strangely, Mr. Elmo Fox attempted to eatch and shoot her. She bit his hand badly and he applied the mad-stone belonging to Mrs. Kirbey. The stone ad-hered from 9 o'clock until 4 in the after-

William Coles, who was arrested for the murder of Mr. Scott Roberts, has been released for want of evidence. He is said to have repeated that he knows the man who cut the stick with which the fatal blow was given. The Perry boys, indicted for the murder of Jordan, beyond Greenfield, live near Afton. It is not a comforting thought that in three years there have been three mur-ders here-Cook and these two later vic-

ng her sister, Mrs. William Martin.
Mrs. Newton Dickson, of West Virginia,
the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Wil-

Ham McCue. Mrs. John McHenry, of Hartford, Ky., arrived at Afton last week. She will re-main with her mother, Mrs. James Goodloe, a month.

When Travelling,

whether on pleasure bent or business, take on every trip a bottle of Syrup of Figs, as it acts most pleasantly and effectually on the kidneys, liver, and hazel-tree that the holy family took refuge from a storm while on their flight to Egypt. Just how one cannot see, but from this consecration the marvels of the hazel are countless. The divining rod to

MILLIONS OF FISHES.

OUR VIRGINIA WATERS ARE TEEM-ING WITH THE FINNY DENIZENS.

Thousands Upon Thousands Are the

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THEM.

Prey of Voracious Waterfowl and Other Piscatorial Enemies - The Greediness of Birds.

The habits of fish have been, and probably will ever remain, a mystery to man. Science has labored long, arduously, and extravagantly, to ferret out the subtle influence which pilots the myriads of fish that annually leave the waters of the Gulf stream, course the shores of the Southern States, and then enter the capes of Virginia for awhile, and become the prey of man's machinations, the birds of the air, and the cannihal nature of other finny tribes. And science is likewise puzzled at the millions of little fish that are spawned in the waters of the Chesapeake and its tributaries (for it is of Virginia's waters we at this time write), and are seen for while, after which they pass out of the apes and are never noticed again-if at

nd they have reached maturity. Nor vet can science trace the wherefores in the evolution of the tiny, soft crab, through its stages of periodical shedding, until it reaches that point when it ceases to shed and becomes permanently a hard crab, or old "chandler (channel) crab," as they call it in the vernacular of Tidewater Virginia. Nor do the wise

-until two or more years have elapsed

ones understand why this self same 'chandler' will take unto himself a wife in nine cases out of ten will, unless the process of hardening is rapid, make a meal of her after their honeymoon is to burst its shell, he seeks shallow waters and getting up to the very edge of land and water, a kind stick, bush, or edge shell is sought for security, from unde which, if he dares venture, one of his own kind with sharder shell, or a rapa-cious fish, will make short work of the impotent, defenceless morsel. But a few hours will grow a harder shell upon him and he in turn searches for some un fortunate in the threes of his recenstate, or for a sluggish or disabled fish nature, in a hardened state, of the bravest, for he will not

hesitate to attack the toes or limbs of bathers, and is the first scavenger of the deep to mutilate the bodies of the drowned. His presumptuous claws often awaken the ravenous bluefish, and even the shark, from his slesta. But I am

digressing; my object in this writing is to acquaint those not directly connected with our water industries, and particularly those resident of the other sections of our great Commonwealth, with some of the peculiarities of our fishes and water fowl, which have been more in evidence during the past few weeks than ever before in the recollection of our fishermen. MENHADEN FISHING.

The menhaden fishing season has opened, and the ever-present dangers to those of the deep have increased since the ponderous purse-net is being cast in the blue waters of the Atlantic and the Chesapeake, and soon millions of menhaden will be transformed into dust that forms the basis of the principal fertilizers used by farmers, not only in Vir ginia, but throughout the entire Atlantic scaboard—an item which is far-reaching, as only through the fish of our waters are the farmers enabled to procure genuine fertilizers at the figures that they now do. The soft crab, as we have shown, is only during certain periods of short duration the prey of others, but the luckless menhaden from its begin-ning is food for fish, fowl, and Mother Earth. Defenceless and harmless, nature was wise in multiplying it to the extent that year by year they become more numerous. The menhaden is not a hookand-line fish (neither is the shad nor which are caught by gill-net. haul-seine, and pound-net, all in shore), and is worthless as food except for the birds of the air and the fishes of the sea. Its habit is to travel in close, compact schools, and during the spring, sum-mer, and fall, under certain conditions of the weather and temperature of the water, it skims the surface, making a ripple by which it is sighted from the menhaden fisher's masts. A deep net of about a quarter of a mile in length, having corks strung along its upper selvage and lead sinkers on its bottom one, is hurriedly thrown out from two small boats in advance of the school. When all or s portion of the shoal is surrounded and the two boats come together, a rope, strung along the bottom of the net, is rapidly drawn in, and the net at the bottom is soon "pursed," like the mouth of a tobacco bag, and the fish are cap-tive. The "bunt" or main body of the by degrees hauled into the two boats until only a comparatively small part of it is in the water, and there the from which they are dipped out with strainer scoops holding a thousand (in measure) each, operated by windlass or pulley from the steamer or schooner which hitherto had been lying off some distance, but has now approached. It is seldom that all of a school is captured, for sometimes they number many mil-lions of these fish, which ordinarily are about the size of a herring. A half milthese ravenous fellows, and would never fact, it forms the most futting and abrupt angle along the coast south of New England. It is well to bear this in mind when considering the migrations of These fish during the spring

or the capture of the menhaden, in which I have generally refrained from using nautical and local vernacular, so that "highland" readers may understand. Myriads of these menhaden have for weeks been cruising northward off the southern coast. The schools of large ones have been driven away out to sea by the swarms of blue-fish hovering about our coast from Hatteras to the Virginia Capes. The smaller ones from the same cause have been run shoreward, and are entering the Chesapeake in rafts. The fisher folk have to be content with these little oilless fellows, unless they are avored with such weather as will permi them to venture twenty-five or thirt; miles to sea. But the little fellows are r shell-duck, as it is sometimes called and the gannet, a species of large gull. Millions of these are just now to be seen north of Hatterns and in the Chesapeake eross "the shoals," and down as far as Lynnhaven bay, and the only idea which can be given of their ravages upon the finny tribe may be found in the voraclous ness of these birds. The pheasant gorge himself with menhaden, and can accommodate as many as a half dozen before he rests for disgestion to hold sway Within a few hours he begins busines again, and so the game goes on. When gorged he floats upon the water, too heavily laden to fly, and if disturbed seeks obscurity in diving—and he is a skilful one, too. Somewhat different is it with the gannet; he can only dive when descending from a height, and it is a pretty sight to see the black clouds o these deva daters soaring above you while ever and agon they dart heading wit folded pinions, striking the water like cannon-bail, from a descent of a hundred feet or more. Under he goes, to emerge 30 or 40 yards distant with his cruw laden with fish. He, too, in a little while becomes satiated, and must rest content only from the soft-shell kingdom, and to float upon the brine, or else disgorge in nine cases out of ten will, unless the from his position on the water's surface like the pheasant, so if molested or ended. Veritably, the lot of the soft crab is beset with vicissitudes. When the time approaches for his expending body to burst its shell, he seeks shallow waters, we bore down upon one of these marauders to view his antics. One by one eleven large menhaden were vomited, and then he took flight. This large gull can swalow shad, and as many as fifteen mer haden have been found intact within one' craw. The gannet is termed the scavenge of the sea among water-fowl, and i worthless to man. Nor is the pheasan palatable when feeding upon fish, but a ther seasons makes a very nice dish Nevertheless, while these birds destroy countless millions of fish it is Fortune decree that few species, save the men-naden, become their prey. This, we supnose is because of that fish's sluggish

ness and his propensity to keep at th surface. THE RAVENOUS BLUEFISH.

The greatest enemy to the best species of fish is found in the victous, voracious and dangerous bluefish. In size, ord narily as long as your arm, with teeth like barbs, he can snap in halves a fish' of his own size, and nearly all fish stand in mortal dread of him. Generally travelling in schools—sometimes as much as five miles in length—they will in short order decimate a school of shad, snot menhaden, or such like. In his stomach can be found numbers of smaller fish, according to size. We have opened one contained a trout of almost his own size, while another contained a shad rearly as large. Still others are found having within themselves one or more of their own species of smaller size. their destructiveness does not end here We have seen them behind a school of shad, spot, or menhaden, and sometimes schools of mackerel and cod, snapping and slashing their prey until the water is all afoam. They eat until they can hold no more, but their viciousness is not abated. With a snap a shad is sundered and spit out, and the next shares the same fate. They never tire, and the fish destroyed, but uneaten, cover the

surface of the water. Without question, the bluefish is by far the greatest factor to be reckoned within, considering the preservation of our food fishes. But man's effort seems to be futile in their extinction or banishment. Nets will not hold him, and only the stoutest line (for he is "game" in every sense of the word), protected with metal about the hook, will withstand his vicious snapping. The only method by which he is procured for market in our waters is with hand-line, baited with menhaden, Hundreds of New England fishing-ves sels, commonly termed "downeaster smaca, are now, and will continue during the summer and fall, fishing off our capes and in the Chesapeake bay in this manner. Our own people do little or none of this kind of fishing. The fish, when caught by these smacks, are feed in boxes and barrels, and from Cape Charles, or some other railroad point, are shipped to northern markets. The numbers caugh by these craft in comparison with the myriads to be found at present in our waters, do not count for anything, and yet hundreds of boats and thousands of en are engaged in the industry. It has long been a question among our people if the benefits to be derived from these northern visitors-in the way of reducing the number of bluefish and the mone they invest with our people for bait and provisions—will equal the damage they do in tolling the bluefish into our waters."

THEY ATTRACT THE BLUEFISH. For weeks these smacks continue to

scatter dissected menhaden upon the ocean's surface near the Virginia capes and attract the bluefish from the ocean while on their northward cruise. A glance at a coast chart will discover Hatteras as the most eastern extremity south of the Delaware peninsula.

these rayenous fellows.
"set" net if they were known to
the "bunch," as with their sharp teeth
they play havoc with the net and soon
free thermelves as well as the menhaden, not only causing the loss of the
'catch," but necessitating a departure
for home, where several days are required to repair the damage.

quired to repair the damage. capes, and the swarms of shad, trout, spot, and menhaden, with a lesser num-ber of mackerel, are sheared off into deep water, and do not again approach the shore until off the coast of Delaware. This fact has been more noticeable with-in the last decade or two since the New England fishermen have come South to meet with the first schools of blues. These smacks by the hundreds anchor or Wimble Shoals, and there scatter balt broadcast and toll the blues until they pack our coast in almost solid phalanx It is firmly believed that the scarcity in our waters of that delicious pan-fish the spot, within the past few years in chiefly attributable to the swarms o bluefish which within the same period have hovered about our capes, for his royal blue highness is an epicure of the sea, and he only feasts upon the com mon menhaden when he cannot get the more toothsome spot. One of the many evidences that these fish are kept out to sea by the blues was given us upon the recent occasion, recited above, at which time we spoke nine bluefishing smacks, and were informed by all that the maws of the blues caught ouside some miles were full of spot, while those inshore were laden with the small menhaden. These big blues seldom enter the Chesa-

> IN AND ABOUT LEXINGTON. Irvine's Hotel Offered for Sale-Move-

W. M'DONALD LEE.

peake Bay proper, but last week a raft of them ploughed in and up the bay to the Maryland line, turned tall, and were

ments of Citizens. LEXINGTON, April 2.-(Special.)-Irvine's Hotel was offered for sale this week by the commissioners, Messrs. W.

The targets for rifle practice on the cliff in the rear of the Virginia Military Institute have been put in repair, and the corps of cadets will commence rifle practice the first of the week.

The assessors of the Rockbridge Mutual work and the books have been turned over to the secretary, Dr. J. T. Wilson. They reduce the insurance, in all the districts, about \$50,000. This leaves the tional Park with company with about \$800,000 of risks. The recretary is now making out new policies for every policy-holder.

is reported to have occurred in the Fancy Hill neighborhood, in this county. Whether justly or unjustly, it is reported that the larceny is laid at the door of two Mormon preachers who have been working in that section for the last month. Circumstances in the case give credence to the assertion, inasmuch as the Mormons have shaken the dust from their feet and the thieving has ceased. thing has been stolen since their de- 6th instant to the 13th.

parture. Miss Bettie Morrison, of Rockbridge Baths, is visiting friends in Richmond.

Mr. Oliver S. Nutty, of Rockbridge Baths, is visiting friends in Port Re

Ferguson, the newly-appointed foundryman of the furnace at Goshen, with his family, has arrived at Goshen.

Hon. S. Houston Letcher, who went to
the launching of the battleships, has returned home, after spending several days

Captain Z. H. Rawlings, of Vesuvius, is visiting friends in Eastern Virginia.

Mr. Thomas J. Robertson, of Vesuvius, and family, have removed to Fire Creek W. Va., where he will engage in detective work with his brother, Mr. Eugene Rot ertson, of the Pinkerton Detective

Charles Powell, of Bell's Valley, has gone to Seattle, Wash.

Mr. S. M. Davidson, of Bell's Valley. has returned from a ten days' visit to northern cities. Rev. C. C. Owen, of this place, is the guest of Rev. H. A. Young, of Bell's

. Robert L. Owen has returned from a visit of several days to Richmond. Mr. William C. Preston spent several days here this week, the guest of his

other, Mrs. T. L. Preston. Mrs. Robert Catlett is visiting friends in Charlotte county. Miss Nina, Weller, of Great Falls, N. Y., is visiting Miss Lelia Holmes.

Miss Vergie Grattan, of Staunton, is

visiting Mrs. Harry St. G. Tucker, Mr. A. Graham Robinson, of Embre ville, Tenn., is on a visit to relatives Miss Belle Webb, of Columbia, Tenn.

is the guest of Miss Madge Paxton. Rev. D. H. Kern, of Baltimore, has re-turned home from a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Rhodes, of this place. Miss Sadie Logan, of Salem, is the guest of Mrs. J. R. Tucker.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Beard are visiting friends in Bath county. Rev. Harry S. Coe, of Berkeley, has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Sallie Pit-

Mr. and Mrs. W S. Forrester, of Louisville, Ky., were the guests of Mrs. Forrester's parents, Professor and Mrs. A. Mrs. John T. Wilson was called to

Buckingham county by the serious illness of her mother, Mrs. Hutcheson. Professor Harry St. G. Tucker, who has been in New York arranging for the publication of the work written by father, Hon, John Randolph Tucker, on

tercollegiate contest of oratory between

Rev. R. E. Hutton and Mr. Harry Agnor have returned from Hinton, W. Va., where they were in attendance upon the last days of the session of the Con-

ference of the Methodist Church.
Mr. John Melin, of the Virginia Military Institute post band, leaves Tuesday for Baltimore, where he will be joined by Mr. Charles T. Meurling, of that city. They will both go to the Klondike. Mr. Melin's family will remain in Balti-more with the family of Mr. Meurling. Judge William McLaughlin left Thursday for Harrisonburg, to hold the spring term of the Circuit Court of Rockingham county. He was accompanied by Mrs. McLaughlin, who will visit friends in

Harrisonburg. Mr. J. Y. McCarthy, agent of the Nor-folk and Western railroad at Glasgow, has been sent to Crimora, near Basic City, and Mr. Bear, agent at Natural Bridge Station, has taken his place.

THE GEORGETOWN STUDENTS.

Annual Mass-Meeting in the Interest of Athletics.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, April 2. pecial.)-The annual mass-meeting in he interest of athletics was held Tuesday evening, and numerous speeches were made, and plans discussed with regard to the field, track, and base-ball teams. Mr. McAleer, president of the 'Athletic Association, made the opening address, speaking in a general way of the various branches under the control of the asso-lation, and the purpose of the meeting; Frank Byrne, secretary, made his report as to the finances of the organization; Harry Gower (1898), T. F. Collins (1899), J. Dana Cleary (1900), and Joseph Fitz-patrick (1901), presidents of their respective classes, each made addresses; Ceppi McKellar and Duffy each spoke a few words, and Mr. Clalborne, manager of the field and track team, confined his the field and track team, confined his remarks to that branch of the university athletics, Messrs, McMahon and Douglass discussed tennis, pool, and billiards, respectively, and Mr. J. A. Y. Barry followed them, the concluding and most effective speech of the evening being made by Mr. J. J. Kirby, of the post-graduate class.

Mr. Claiborne, tears, and Douglass

S. Hopkins and P. M. Penick. There track team, has cancelled the proposed dual meet with the University of Pennoffered, and the property was withdrawn by the commissioners.

Snow covered the mountain ranges in this vicinity Thursday morning.

Such Among the candidates for positions are Wefers, Cody, Dessez, Ruff, and Apgarth. Nagle is now at his home, and Maloney and Fleming will be prevented from entering by their work with the

base-ball team.

The base-ball team has shown up very The assessors of the Rockbridge Mutual Insurance Company have completed their the real test will come in the next two work and the books have been turned weeks, when it meets Lehigh. Yale, Princeton (twice), Dartmouth, Pennsylvania, and Richmond. The game which was to have been played to-day at Na-Washington League

team has been cancelled.
With the exception of the chairs, the olicies for every policy-holder.

A considerable amount of petty thieving for the chairs was delayed, and is expected to arrive to-day

THE LAW STUDENTS. At the Law School Saturday night the following officers were elected by the Dehating Society: President, Herman R. Schade: Vice-President, Carroll Parman P. E. Kilcullen; Sergeant-at-Arms, Lloyd

The Easter recess will extend from the

WILL SING FOR THE NEEDY.

Little Tycoon to Be Presented for

Elks Charity Fund.

Regularly every week for many weeks

past have Professors Moses Stein and Herbert L. Reese been rehearsing the cast and chorus for the presentation dupopular light opera, "The Little Tycoon," for the bea6, t of the charity fund of Richmond Lodge, No. 45, B. P. O. Elks,

The distribution of the Elks' charity fund is not confined to their own members, but to all persons worthy of and eeding its benefit. Much good is done every year by this lodge to the poor of Richmond, and their annual entertainments for its benefit are eagerly watched

"The Little Tycoon" has often been

given in this city, both by professional and local talent, and the public is gene-rally familiar with the delightful story

told in its three acts of the many ventures that surround the love-making Violet and Alvin Barry, of General Knickerbocker, and what they did he was a boy; how Dolly Dimple flirts outrageously with the boys; of jolly Miss Hurricane, who lost her breath when she saw the whale, and Lord Dolphin, who goes heel and toe with Teddy. The music is full of melody, and many catchy solos and duets, besides several very pretty

The cast is complete, and contains the names of many prominent singers, who have appeared before in operas, and are over the age of stage fright, so the au-dience may have no fear of a ragged first night. It is as follows: Violet. Bessie Pace; Dolly Dimple, Miss Maggie Leahy; Miss Hurricane, Mrs. Thomas Smith; General Knickerbocker, Frank Cunningham; Alvin Barry, Frank McCarthy; Rufus Ready, Charles Eubank; Lord Dolphin, J. Louis Sullivan; Teddy, I Wilson; Montgomery, Herbert Curtis.

The chorus is composed of over fifty voices, and sings with a plenty of volume and rhyme. All of the costumes and stage furnishings are to be made especially for this production, and the orchestra will be increased to fifteen musicians. It will undoubtedly be the musical event of the season, and society's first appearance this winter as a patron of an institution, so full of benevolence and protection as the Elks, known everywhere as the "best

Tickets are on sale at the Academy constitutional law, has returned.

President William L. Wilson has teturned from Princeton University, where he went as one of the judges at the instructional law, has returned.

Reserve scats will be on sale at the Academy bex-office and by members of the lodge.

Reserve scats will be on sale at Manly bex-office and by members of the lodge.

Reserve scats will be on sale at Manly bex-office and by members of the lodge.

THE COWBOYS READY

THE PRESIDENT WILL REMEMBER THEM IF THEY ARE NEEDED.

JUDGE TORREY HAS A NOVEL SCHEME

To Utilize These Denizens of the Plains-Governor of Wyoming Approves the Iden-Something About Their Modus Operandi.

(Written by Judge Jay L. Torrey.)

At the beginning of the last war the Zouave regiments, which were first organized, were received with great popular enthusiasm and did much to arouse the martial spirit. Now, that war with Spain seems imminent, the military enthusiasm seems likely to be aroused for quite a different kind of organization, and yet one which bids fair to be equally picturesque. I refer to my voluntary offer to organize a regiment of cowboys for service against the Spaniards. I was presented by Senator Warren, of Wyoming, the other day, to the President, and asked authority to immediately organize twelve troops of cowboys, urging their known loyalty and admitted bravery as a reason why they should be called into service, and referred to them as hardy men, perfect horsemen, and able to cope with all difficulties and competent to provide for themselves under all circumstances. The President expressed his thanks, and without making any promises, assured both Senator Warren and myself that in any case of necessity, the cowboys should be remembered.

We also called upon General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army, and can-vassed the situation and considered at length the subject of the organization of the cowboy rangers. Upon the subject, General Miles said: "The services of such a regiment would prove invaluable to the government. The cowboys are able, in a pre-sminent degree, to take care of themselves. They are always at home and know where they are; even a blizzard is unavailing to lose one of them. They are the best horsemen in the world and do not know what fear is."

THE GOVERNOR APPROVES. In reply to the inquiry as to what might be done in a preliminary way to-wards getting ready, he said: "Pick out your subordinate officers and find out where your men are in the event they are required."

are required."

I telegraphed Governor Richards, of
Wyoming, asking if he would approve the
organization of a regiment of cowboy
rangers, and the Governor answered that he would.

he would.

It is not proposed, by the organization of the new regiment, to interfere in any way with the Wyoming militia for actual service in the event of war, but to simply organize the additional regiment so that there may be a distinct cowboy organization for mounted service wherever needed. If it transpires that special legislation is neede in order to provide for the desired regiment, I have no doubt it will be passed with the same unanimity as the aupropriation for \$50,000,000.

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As to the probable effect of such legislation, it will, no doubt, provide for the election of the troop officers by the men. They are all men of independent characters, and would not consent to be commanded by officers other than those of their own choice. The field officers should be chosen by the treep officers. In should be chosen by the troop officers. In this way every officer would be the choice of the men, and in consequence, would be much nearer to them than they would be

if appointed. If appointed.

The usual "newspaper cowboy" is quite different from the real article. When a rowdy puts on spurs and acts in a disgraceful way, he is sometimes improperly heralded in the newspapers as a "bad cowboy." In this way a wrong impression is given out of the true character of the senuine cowboy. As a class they of the genuine cowboy. As a class, they are fearless, adventurous, absolutely are fearless, adventurous, absolutely truthful, and always reliable. I never have known a class of men who can be so thoroughly relied upon. When it is time to have fun they have it; but when the time for business arrives they attend

to it thoroughly and well. A DISTINCT UNIFORM.

Concerning the uniforms and equip-ments of the men, the plan is to have a distinct uniform, which will be both serviceable and ornamental and characterisviceable and ornamental and characteris-tic of them. They are men of taste and appreciate good clothes. In my judgment, their equipment—that is, saddles, bridles, etc.—are the best that the world has ever seen, and I have no doubt but that they will be permitted to retain them.
As to arms, I shall endeavor to avoid
everything that is useless, except for ornament, including sabres, and have the nament, including shores, and have the men furnished, if possible, each with a couple of six-shooters and a long-range rifle. In close quarters they can guide their horses with their knees and handle a six-shooter in each hand. In this way they would be more effective than if they

were required to use a sabre.

As to the time needed to get organized, I have already communicated with good, true men in all parts of Wyoming, and they are busy, in a quiet way, getting the names of the boys and making ready so as to respond immediately, if occasion

Regarding the horses likely to be used, they would, of course, be native Wyom ing horses. Our boys would not ride plough-horses. We have, I believe, the plough-horses. We have, I believe, the best horses on earth. Last year a deputy sheriff summoned an outfit of our boys to go with him as a posse; they rode grass-fed, bare-footed horses, and covered thirty miles in 1 hour and 59 minutes. The would pro s to be ideal fighters. Thy have all had experience on the frontier, and first and last, most of them have had experience in charging and retreating under difficult circumstances, and know all about Indian fighting. If the method of warfare of the Spaniards method of warfare of the Spaniards in Cuba is a fair sample of their fighting capabilities they would be able to secure a liberal education by facing our boys.

Naval Enlistment Slow.

(Springfield Union.)

(Springfield Union.)

The Navy Department is having great difficulty in enlisting suitable men for its war vessels. This is not because seamen are lacking in courage or patriotism, but rather because service in the navy is not particularly attractive, and the number of trained sallors is small. For about a fortnight efforts have been made to enlist seamen, but the number procured is not so near so great as naval officers had anticipated. The pay of the seamen is not high, but it is regarded as satisfactory; the real trouble is the fact that a sallor cannot advance above a petty officer. This has been a drawback to the naval service for years, and was largely responsible for the great number of unnaturalized men in our navy a few years back. Good, stout, and carnest American boys are not anxlous to go on war vessels in times of peace, unless they have an opportunity to advance themselves. In wartime, patriotism will furnish a plentiful supply of men, and at present there are offers enough of men, but skilled sallors are at a discount. A naval recruit gannot learn his duties in as short time as he might in the days of wooden ships. Now the vessels are filled with complicated machinery and suns, and a high grade of intelligence is required to work them. Skilled mechanics are really needed on the warships nowadays, but such men will find little inducement to enlist until they know that they can rise above seamen or petty officers. Until the service is made more attractive and offers more inducements, it will lack in the best character of seamen. As the Philadelphia Press says, the navy must "Open the way for promotion." Prejudice against the man who was not graduated at Annapolis must not be permitted to interfere with the good of the service.

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